Practitioner's Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_2002-IP-006658U1

Patent application

PATENT



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

	Inventor(s)
orTitle	e of invention
	OR
in re application of: Bradley L. To	odd, et al.
Application No.: 10 / 736,152	Group Art Unit: 3672 Examiner:
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	
BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST	MATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT MONTHS OF FILING OR OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))  ER 57 C.F.R. § § 1.8(a) and 1.18° Express Mail intel number is mandatory;
Express Me I hereby certify that, on the date shown below,	this correspondence is being:
(2) deposited with the United States Poetal Servi Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(n)	ice in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 °
with sufficient postage as first class mail.	as "Express Mail Post Office to Addresses"  Mailing Label No
faceimile transmitted to the Patent and Trad	·
Date: 7/18/05	Tammy Knight
/ /	(type or print name of person certifying)

\* Only the date of filing (§ 1.0) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any cartificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.5(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

(Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of Filing or Before Mailing of First Office Action [6-3]—page 1 of 3)

- (1) Each U.S. petent fisted in an information disclosure statement must be identified by inventor, patent number, and leave date.
- (2) Each U.S. patent application publication listed in an information disclosure statement shall be identified by applicant, patent application publication number, and publication date.
- (3) Each U.S. application listed in an information disclosure statement must be identified by the inventor, application number, and filing date.
- (4) Each foreign patent or published foreign patent application listed in an information declosure statement must be identified by the country or patent office which issued the patent or published the application, an appropriate document number, and the publication date indicated on the patent
- (5) Each publication listed in an information disclosure statement must be identified by publisher, or published application. author (il any), title, relevant pages of the publication, date, and piece of publication.

WARNING: No extension of time can be had under 37 C.F.R. § 1.138 (a) or (b) for filing an IDS. 37 C.F.R.

NOTE: The "filing date of a national application" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filling is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filling is defined in 57 C.F.R. § 1.53(a) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to § 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to § 1.78; and (2) any drawing required by § 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by \$ 1.41." 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) within the periods set forth in § 1.494 or § 1.495. 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the basic national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the international Bureau, and optionally an English translation if filled in another language; and, also optionally (3) amendments under PCT Article 18, with a translation into English If made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any ennexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. The optional items must be submitted later, with surcharges, 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2).

## IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

- NOTE: "No certification or fee is due when the fitting is made within the above time period, it is advisable to ensure that no Office action has been mailed if the disclosure statement is delayed until after three
- NOTE: "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 C.F.R. 1.10. An Office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39). See also \$ 800, M.P.E.P., 8th Edition.
- NOTE: "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuationsin-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a construing application." Notice of April 20, 1982 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

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"An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (\$7 C.F.R. 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (\$7 C.F.R. 1.16(d). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

WARNING: "A petition for suspension of action to allow applicant time to submit an information disclosure statement will be denied as falling to present good and sufficient reasons, since 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 provides adequate recourse for the timely submission of prior art for consideration by the examiner." Notice of July 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63). But see § 103(b) and (q), limited suspension of action in a continued prosecution application (CPA) filed under § 1.53(d) and in a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114.

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(Transmittel of Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of Filing or Before Mailing of First Office Action [8-3]—page 3 of 3)

Information Disclosure Citation in an Application				Application No. Applican 10/736,152		BRADLEY L. TODD, ET AL.				
				Docket Number	Group	Group Art Unit Filing		Date		
				2002-IP-006658U1	2002-IP-006658U1 3672 12/15			5/2003		
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+	2.	6,143,698	11/07/00	Murphe	ey, et al.	507	145			
+	3.	2002/0036088 A1	03/28/02	Todd		166	300	)	01/09/	
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

DATE CONSIDERED

**EXAMINER**